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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/649,097

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Ming Fang Tsai

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EXAMINER

HAYLES, ASHFORD S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3687

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/09/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/649,097

Applicant(s)

TSAI, MING FANG

Examiner

Ashford S. Hayles

Art Unit

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Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-893)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment received on April 1, 2008 has been acknowledged. Claims 1 and 6-8 have been amended and entered. Therefore, claims 1-8 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being obvious by Wong (6,115,690).**

As per Claim 1, Wong et al. discloses an outsourcing management system for processing outsourcing transaction variation (Daily Vendor Verification option See Figure 92, this option identifies all of the open vendor invoices and runs them through a "sieve" to determine which invoices are "clean," fully reconciled, and which invoices are not clean, i.e., have discrepancies, Column 34, line 41- 46), the outsourcing management system comprising a plurality of client computers (See Figure 3, which details client computers attached to a DBMS), a database server linking to a database for storing and managing information (A Web-enabled, client/server relational database management system (DBMS) is provided storing a database including files belonging to different business domains, e.g. a products domain, a payments domain, a financial performance domain and a personnel domain as discussed in Column 12, lines 55-59) and an outsourcing management server comprising:

a data obtaining module for accessing data from one or more external information systems (An external influence may be a communication from a customer or vendor, for example, to either convey information or to view information stored in the central database. Information may be conveyed by electronic means as discussed in Column 12, lines 13-16);

a data maintenance module for maintaining information (See Figure 95A-95B, which details accounting entries, payments and expenses as defined by the applicant);

an outsourcing transaction variation processing module for processing variations occurred during outsourcing transactions, such processing comprising maintaining master outsourcing documents and requiring prepaid expenses and outsourcing charges(a daily vendor verification option with the accounts payable module, is invoked this option identifies all of the open vendor invoices and runs them through a sieve to determine which invoices are clean, i.e., fully reconciled, and which invoices are not clean, i.e., have discrepancies as discussed in Column 34, line 41- 46, where discrepancies are construed as variations that can occur during outsourcing transactions, Column 23, Table 1 depicts Vendor invoices, where pre-paid payments are scheduled, and invoices are updated. Table 1 also depicts the Master Worksheet being updated throughout); and

an outsourcing transaction management module for managing procedures in an outsourcing transaction, the procedures comprising carrying forward outsourcing accounts to costs and expenses(A general ledger module tracks transactions and their

financial implications in real time. It therefore receives information from the A/P, A/R and virtual inventory modules as well as discussed in Column 24, lines 31-34).

As per Claim 2, Wong discloses a system wherein the outsourcing management server further comprises an information search module for searching information stored in the database (From the products search screen display, the user is able to fill in various fields (e.g., Manufacturer, Manufacturer Part, Item Description) to find products within the database as discussed in Column 13, lines 12-14).

As per Claim 3, Wong discloses a system wherein the outsourcing management server further comprises a statement printing module for printing corresponding statements and information (an accounts payable clerk prints out, checks and mails customer invoices issued during the preceding interval. Alternatively, the printing and mailing of customer invoices may also be automated as discussed in Column 33, lines 19-22 which describes the system as having the ability to print invoices).

As per Claim 4, Wong discloses a system wherein the database server is connected to a database through a connection using database connectivity (Web business and business automation are both greatly facilitated using a computing model based on a single integrated database management system (DBMS) that is either Web-enabled or provided with a Web front-end. The Web provides a window into a "seamless" end-to-end internal business process as discussed in Column 4, lines 12-18).

As per Claim 5, Wong discloses a system wherein one or more external information systems comprise any one or more of a general ledger management

system, an inventory management system, a procurement management system, and an accounts payable management system (A Web-enabled, client/server relational database management system (DBMS) is provided storing a database including files belonging to different business domains, e.g. a products domain, a payments domain, a financial performance domain and a personnel domain as discussed in Column 12, lines 55-59).

As per Claim 6, Wong discloses computer-enabled outsourcing management method comprising the steps of:

generating master outsourcing documents according to a type of outsourcing voucher and outsourcing information (Column 25, lines 12-13, discuss a Master Worksheet contains all of the vital information related to an order, Column 24, lines 7-10 discuss if the request regards sales, the information is checked and converted to a Master Worksheet, where, the responsible user groups MWSs for purchasing and places orders, thereby generating documents based on purchasing voucher and place orders for outsourcing);

requiring an outsourcing payment (Vendor invoices must reconcile with purchasing costs and terms as discussed in Column 35, lines 35-36);

checking the outsourcing payment requisition, and paying for outsourcing material (More preferably, purchase orders, instead of being placed manually, are placed electronically by linking to the seller's network of vendors. Automated purchasing may occur continuously or at regular intervals using "pull" technology, "push"

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technology, some combination of the two, or some other information retrieval technology or combination of technologies as discussed in Column 27, lines 35-41);

accepting delivered outsourcing material (during receiving, only ordered items are allowed to be received as discussed in Column 32, lines 7-8); and

carrying forward outsourcing accounts to costs (See Figure 103A-103B, which details vendors and indicates it them as cost of goods).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong et al. (6,115,690) in view of Wescott et al. (PG PUB. 2002/0123957).**

As per Claim 7, Wong et al. discloses an outsourcing management method for processing outsourcing transaction variations, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an information search module to search outsourcing transaction records (If the user is a vendor, then vendor invoice search options are displayed as discussed in Column 17, lines 49-50);

(b) providing an outsourcing transaction variation processing module to determine whether there are any variations occurred during an outsourcing transaction (Discrepancies may occur between payment amounts and invoice amounts, i.e., both overpayment and underpayment may occur. An OverUnderPay file is used to track and

resolve such discrepancies, as disclosed in Column 33, lines 67 to Column 34 lines 1-2),;

(c) carrying forward outsourcing accounts to costs (See Figure 103A-103B which displays vendor accounts as an Cost of Goods Sold and Figure 95A-95B, Accounting Default Setup, Accounts Payable, Cost of Goods Sold);and

(d) carrying forward outsourcing accounts to expenses (See Figure 103A-103B which displays vendor accounts as an expense and Figure 95A-95B, Accounting Default Setup).

However, Wong et al. fails to disclose a means to determine whether it is necessary to cancel the outsourcing transaction.

Both Wong and Westcott et al. are within the same field of supply chain management. Westcott et al. teaches that if the customer does not accept the revised schedule for the purchase order of the products, the OEM may cancel the purchase order, as discussed in (Paragraph [0093], where the OEM has to determine whether or not to cancel a customers order based on acceptance of a schedule).

Therefore, from this teaching of Westcott et al. it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the integrated business-to-business Web commerce automation system of Wong, to include the system for supply chain control as taught by Westcott et al.

The motivation to combine is to allow a transaction be cancelled if terms of the agreement are not meet.

As per Claim 8, Wong et al. discloses a method, after step (d), further comprising steps of:

(e) generating accounting entries and outsourcing payment information (Vendor payments are made in conjunction with the A/R module, as discussed in Column 24, lines 29-30); and

(f) providing a general ledger management system to carry forward the accounting entries and outsourcing payment information to one or more general ledgers (an AR portion of the GL functionality would make general ledger entries immediately to reflect payment information as it is input as discussed in Column 37, lines 21-23).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed April 1, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues: *the processing of the invoices does not include "maintaining master outsourcing documents, and requiring prepaid expenses and outsourcing charges."* Accordingly, Wong fails to disclose or teach the feature of *"an outsourcing transaction variation processing module for processing variations occurred during outsourcing transactions, such processing comprising maintaining master outsourcing documents, and requiring prepaid expenses and outsourcing charges," as set forth in amended claim 1.*

Examiner contends that Wong discloses a relational database management system that provides an option whereby any base table may be viewed or a "Related Switch " option whereby a base table may be selected from which is then displayed a

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row related to a selected row in a current table (Column 20, 50-55). Table 1, Columns 20-23 depict instructions where the Master Worksheet is maintained by being continuously updated throughout every procedure within the system. Table 1, Column 23 depict instructions, within vendor invoices to schedule pre-paid payments, and update invoices, thereby maintaining master outsourcing documents and requiring prepaid expenses and outsourcing charges.

Applicant argues: *an action of "tracking" is different from an action of "managing:" "track" means to observe the progress of something, while "manage" means to be responsible for controlling or organizing something.*

Examiner contends that the responsibility of "tracking" falls within the broader definition of managing, one must have control and organization in order to properly track something, therefore the general ledger module as disclosed by Wong can be construed as an outsourcing transaction management module.

Applicant argues: *Wong fails to disclose or teach the feature of "an outsourcing transaction management module for managing procedures in an outsourcing transaction, the procedures comprising carrying forward outsourcing accounts to costs and expenses, and carrying forward accounting entries to a general ledger," as set forth in amended claim 1.*

Examiner contends that Wong discloses the process of transferring the information from the journal entry to the accounts is called posting and posting is automatic, either continuous or at user-specified intervals (Col. 36, lines 63-64). Wong further discloses where an AR portion of the GL functionality would make general ledger

entries immediately to reflect payment information as it is input, a purchasing portion would make general ledger entries immediately to reflect obligations as incurred through purchase orders, therefore automatically posting accounting cost and expense entries to a general ledger.

Applicant argues: *Wong fails to disclose or teach the feature of "generating a master outsourcing document according to a type of outsourcing voucher and outsourcing information," as set forth in amended claim 6.*

Examiner contends that Wong teaches sales information is converted into Master Worksheet, therefore generating a master document. The applicant discloses users first select a type of outsourcing voucher (Figure 59, E1, Sales or RMA), and then input outsourcing information (sales information or RMA information, Col.24, lines 7-8) to the outsourcing voucher to generate a master outsourcing document (Figure 59 check and convert to Master Worksheet). Step S312 is a process of outsourcing a payment requisition (places order Col.24, line 10). Therefore, Wong clearly teaches the feature of generating a master document according to a type of outsourcing voucher and outsourcing information.

Applicant argues: *FIG. 103A and 103B of Wong discloses an accounts payable screen display. However, in FIG. 103A and 103B, even in conjunction with the text of Wong, there is no teaching or suggestion regarding the features of "carrying forward outsourcing accounts to costs if it is not necessary to cancel the outsourcing transaction; and carrying forward outsourcing accounts to expenses if it is necessary to*

cancel the outsourcing transaction," as set forth in claim 7. In addition, applicant asserts that Wescott does not teach or suggest the above-highlighted features either.

Examiner contends that Figure 103A and 103B depict vendor invoices as being entries within Accounts Payable as a Cost of Goods and Expense. Wong further teaches an automatic posting process that generates entries in GAAP format, which is a standard format within the known art to carry forward cost and expenses. When combined with Wescott, who teaches a determination function, where the OEM has to determine whether or not to cancel a customers order based on acceptance of a schedule, it will be determined where cost or expense will be carried forward.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashford S. Hayles whose telephone number is 571-270-

5106. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 8:30 to 4:00 Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Gart can be reached on (571) 272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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